

Descriptor Term: COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Descriptor Code: JCGG

Rescinds: JCGG

Board Approved: 5/18/98

Previously Approved: 4/4/88

A student of the Gulfport School District with a communicable disease, such as chicken pox, measles, etc., must remain at home until the disease is no longer a threat to other students. Prior to the student's return to school, health clearance from the child's physician, the Mississippi State Health Department or the school nurse should be provided to the school.

Principals will report to the school nurse all cases of communicable diseases which pose a threat to the health of students or staff in the school.

When concerned with a unique case, such as hepatitis, HIV (Human Immune-deficiency Virus), etc. the welfare of all students and employees should be the prime consideration. Each individual case will be resolved or periodically reviewed in consultation with the student's attending physician, parent(s), principal and school nurse. In each case, risks and benefits to both the infected student and to others in the setting will be weighed. Conflicting positions regarding the student's school attendance may be appealed to the Superintendent and then the Board of Trustees.

Because the HIV student is at risk of opportunistic infections, the student's parent(s) should be informed of other communicable disease outbreaks within the school environment.

Especially in the case of HIV, the individual's right to privacy must be respected. Therefore, the information regarding any individual case will be shared with school personnel on a strict need-to-know basis.

The school nurse will comply with guidelines for reporting of communicable diseases to the Mississippi State Health Department.

REFER TO EMPLOYEE POLICY.

